

18 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re. A chance for Year 8 pupils to express interest in a robotics club that plans to compete in the "First Tech Challenge"**

Springfield School is entering a team in a competition called the First Tech Challenge. This is an international competition that helps teams of young people to design, build and code a robot before using it to compete in challenges.

We are grateful to the Solent Careers Hub, which supports schools in our area with careers provision, for heavily subsidising the equipment. Portsmouth and Hampshire schools will be entering Key Stage 3 aged teams and, at Springfield, we are inviting Year 8s to express interest.

The First Tech Challenge has the slogan 'We build more than robots' to emphasise that it is not merely a coding or robotics club - **pupils who join will work as a team on a range of aspects of the challenge**, including creating a portfolio that logs the progress of their robot build and presenting to younger pupils about their work. We aim to take part in two competitions this year, the first in November and the second in the spring.

There is no requirement to have previous experience in robotics or coding. Pupils should express interest if they are keen on trying out this kind of 'STEM' challenge and can work well within a team.

**Key details:**

**When:** Wednesday after school, in the Computing/IT classrooms

**Group size:** We will select twelve Year 8s. We will also nominate up to three reserves.

**Staff in charge:** Mrs Faithfull, who is the Lead Coach for the challenge, and Ms Burden

To find out more about the First Tech Challenge, visit the site <https://firstuk.org/>

The First Tech Challenge game for this year is "Biobuzz" - you can see an American team undertaking their tournament on this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRxIRQQdUWo>

**If your Year 8 child wishes to express interest in taking part, he or she should fill in this Google Form by 8.30am on Friday 25th September:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetCyujLtlOIUVmPrEgyAaxmzjl3-C7piMihgiRMJ3UXaTmw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Pupils will be informed the following week if they have been selected and, if they have, a letter will be sent home.

Yours faithfully



Laura Burden  
Lead for Aspiration and Enterprise

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